

## **Mental Health First Aid**

Mental Health First Aid is a public education program offered by the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board that can help communities understand mental illnesses, seek timely intervention, and save lives.

About 1 in 5 adults in the U.S. in a given year has a diagnosable mental illness. Symptoms of mental illness can be difficult to detect – and even when friends and family can tell that something is wrong, they may not know how to help.

## Mental Health First Aid:

- Introduces risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems,
- Builds understanding of the importance of early intervention, and
- Most importantly, teaches how to help someone who is in crisis or experiencing a mental health or substance use challenge.

Our certified instructors teach five versions of the program throughout Fairfax County and cities of Fairfax and Falls Church:

- Mental Health First Aid (Adult)
- Primeros Auxilios para Salud Mental (Spanish Mental Health First Aid)
- Youth Mental Health First Aid (for adults who live or work with adolescents)
- Mental Health First Aid for Older Adults (for adults who live or work with older adults)
- Mental Health First Aid for Public Safety (for police and others who work in public safety roles)

In addition to courses that are available for individual enrollment, you can also request a customized group Mental Health First Aid course.

There is a \$25 materials fee for these two-day courses. Fairfax County government employees attend free of charge.

## Go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov and search on "MHFA" for more information



Questions? Contact Lori Naveda at 703-538-7476 or Lori.Naveda@fairfaxcounty.gov.

